

New law creates the "CHOOSE LIFE" prestige license plate, provided there are a minimum of 100 applicants, to be a color and design selected by the Choose Life Advisory Council, and to bear the legend "Choose Life". Further provides for an annual fee of \$25 for such plate in addition to the regular motor vehicle license fee and a \$3.50 handling fee to be retained by the department for administrative costs.

New law requires the department to collect the fee and forward \$25 dollars to the state treasurer for deposit into the "Choose Life" fund.

New law creates the Choose Life Advisory Council to design and review grant applications, and make recommendations regarding the awarding of grants. Members shall serve one-year terms on a voluntary basis and shall receive no compensation. The Council shall meet at least once annually, and shall be comprised of the president, or his designee, from the American Family Association, the Louisiana Family Forum, and the Concerned Women for America organization. Membership may be extended to add members such as obstetricians, pediatricians, women who have surrendered children for adoption, couples who have adopted children, adoption advocacy groups, board-certified social workers, and certified counselors.

New law requires an organization wishing to receive funds to submit an affidavit affirming their qualifications. Furthermore, such organization must qualify as tax exempt and must demonstrate they provide counseling and other services intended to meet the needs of expectant mothers considering adoption for their unborn child. Prohibits the distribution of monies to any organization involved in counseling for, or referrals to abortion clinics, providing medical abortion-related procedures, or pro-abortion advertising.

New law requires qualified organizations to use at least 50% of such funds to provide for material needs of expectant mothers and the remaining funds may be used for counseling, training, and pregnancy testing, but shall not be used for administrative, legal, or capital expenditures.

New law requires the state treasurer to annually disburse equal amounts of revenue to each qualifying organization, and must make available the name and the amount of monies disbursed. Qualified organizations may be required to submit an audit prepared by a certified public accountant, at the discretion of the state treasurer and the Council.

New law authorizes the department to establish rules and regulations for the implementation of the prestige license plate.

Effective August 15, 1999.

(Adds R.S. 47:463.57)